

Poem in Tribute to Wu Bong Dae Soen Sa Nim Presented at the Funeral

Deok Hyeon Sunim



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Wu Bong Dae Soen Sa Nim!
All Buddhas of previous worlds have passed away like this.
Shakyamuni Buddha also passed away like this.
And only a week ago, you too have passed away like this.
Life is like a cloud appearing in the sky.
Death is like that cloud disappearing without a trace.
But every buddha and patriarch has said that there is one
thing that doesn't belong to life or death.

Wu Bong Dae Soen Sa Nim,
What is that?
Everyone is missing you in great sadness.
Where are you now?
Don't try to hit the floor.
If you do that, people will be very surprised.

Don't try to drag your feet out of the coffin.
Then they won't be able to go on with the funeral.

Don't try to get back to the East with only your right shoe
on your shoulder.
Then the left shoe would be useless.

Where are you, Sunim?
Let me answer this for you.

(Ringing the hand bell three times)

Listen to the listener.
This is the Zen of Wu Bong (Cosmos Peak)
and that of Kwan Um (Avalokitesvara).

In Zen, there's no coming and going, no life and death,
no right and left, no east and west, no good and bad,
no suffering and salvation.

Wu Bong Dae Soen Sa Nim! You said we cannot rest on
our way to nirvana as we have vowed to save all sentient
beings, even though they are numberless.

So, take a brief breeze around the Pure Land and return
to this impure land as soon as you can.

I plead you to walk with us again in the path to saving
all sentient beings.